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3 January 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Approved For Release 2003/03/10 : CIA-RDP79T00975A007400350001-1

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*Cyprus: [A 1 January proposal by the Turkish Government to Greece and Britain, providing for the reinforcement of the Turkish and Greek garrisons on Cyprus, has resulted in feverish diplomatic activity in Athens, London and Paris.]

[According to the Greek Ambassador in Ankara, the Turks, in their note to Greece, termed the situation on Cyprus "chaotic" and blamed the British commander of the tripartite forces for not being sufficiently energetic.]

[In a separate note to the State Department, the Turkish Government noted that the commander of the tripartite forces had admitted that his forces were insufficient to reestablish order throughout the island, claimed that the lives of Turkish Cypriots were in serious danger, and proposed that the three guarantor powers reinforce their troops; immediately.]

[The Greek Government regarded the Turkish proposal as a prelude to unilateral military intervention on Cyprus and immediately called in the British and US Ambassadors to urge that Turkey be restrained by all possible peaceful means. It also asked for an emergency meeting of the NATO permanent Council in Paris. At that meeting, held yesterday afternoon, the Greeks charged Turkey.]

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[with concentrating troops and naval units in the area near Cyprus and called on the NATO powers to prevent "any unilateral Turkish action" directed toward Cyprus.]

[Britain has officially requested both Greece and Turkey to refrain from sending reinforcements to Cyprus. Simultaneously, London announced that more British troops would be sent to the island, bringing to nearly 2,000 the total number of British servicemen dispatched to Cyprus in little over a week.]

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[Meanwhile, a British proposal to convene a conference in London to examine the future of Cyprus has been accepted by the Greek Cypriots. The British have proposed that Britain, Greece, Turkey and both Cypriot communities be represented. While Athens is receptive to this plan, the Turkish Government has termed the proposal "premature," has made the restoration of order on Cyprus a prerequisite to any conference, and has expressed the view that only the three guarantor states should be represented.]

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*USSR: [Khrushchev's proposal for an international agreement to renounce the use of force in settling territorial disputes probably was timed to take advantage of the exchanges of cordial New Year's greetings to draw the West into a discussion of non-aggression arrangements.]

[The Soviet leaders in the past have indicated that they do not attach great importance to the form of such an agreement. Khrushchev's proposal, which incorporates the main features of Moscow's long-standing formula for a NATO-Warsaw Pact non-aggression treaty, appears designed to circumvent Western objections that such a treaty would involve at least tacit recognition of East Germany. It is also an extension of Moscow's offer to the US and Britain last fall of a unilateral Soviet statement, to accompany a non-aggression pact, renouncing the use of force in all international questions, including Germany and West Berlin.]

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[The provision that the absence of recognition or diplomatic relations should not be used as a pretext for violating the "territorial integrity of another state" is clearly aimed at affording increased protection for East Germany against the alleged "revanchist" ambitions of the Federal Republic.]

[In addition to injecting a divisive issue into NATO discussions, Khrushchev's proposal probably is a calculated attempt to place the Chinese Communists on the defensive in both the Sino-Indian and Sino-Soviet border questions. Moscow charged last September that Chinese "servicemen and civilians" had "systematically violated" the Soviet frontier since 1960 and warned Peiping that "artificial creation" of territorial disputes would mean "embarking on a very dangerous path."]

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France-Cambodia: [French Armed Forces Minister Messmer's visit to Cambodia, scheduled for 4-7 January, is being billed by Foreign Office officials as primarily exploratory.]

[The main purpose of Messmer's visit, according to these officials, is to prepare dossiers on economic matters involving France and Cambodia. Messmer, however, will be authorized a wide latitude of action and will be allowed "to play much by ear"]

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[Messmer will be prepared to discuss various means of guaranteeing Cambodia's neutrality, including Prince Sihanouk's call for an international conference, which France favors. Messmer will reportedly make it clear that Paris is not prepared to serve as the sole counterweight to China in keeping Cambodia "balanced in neutrality," although it is doubtful he will do much to improve the US position in Phnom Penh.]

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Arab States: Nasir may use the Arab chiefs of state meeting which opens in Cairo on 13 January to display a new posture of conciliation and cooperation with all his Arab neighbors.

Nasir called for the conference in a speech on 23 December. A confidant of the Egyptian President has said that this was the beginning of an effort to work more closely with other Arab regimes. A ranking Egyptian official has made a similar statement.

Apparently in preparation for the meeting, Egyptian radio and press propaganda has at least temporarily halted its attacks against Arab leaders at odds with Nasir.

Ambassador Badeau comments that there have been indications of pressures within the Nasir regime to abandon Egypt's costly and largely fruitless activist policies, but that much more evidence must come in before a drastic shift in Egyptian outlook and policy can be accepted.

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*Ethiopia: [Ethiopian officials, frustrated over US unwillingness to meet requests for increased military assistance, are threatening that Ethiopia will retaliate by recognizing Communist China.]

[Both Defense Minister General Merid Mengesha and Acting Foreign Minister Ketema-- [redacted]

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[redacted] -ex-pressed bitter disappointment on 31 December over the US refusal to supply such items as rations and POL. Ketema is said to have exclaimed that Ethiopia would recognize Peiping "within a week."]

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[redacted] Ketema, who is designated acting foreign minister because Emperor Haile Selassie retains the foreign affairs portfolio, had instructed officials of the Foreign Ministry to compile "papers concerning" Ethiopian relations with Communist China by 1 January. Ketema is also said to have asked for the African itinerary of Chinese Premier Chou En-lai.]

[redacted]
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[Only Haile Selassie could make a decision of this magnitude, and there is no indication that Merid or Ketema have actually approached him with such a proposal. Both of these officials probably fear the Emperor's wrath when they report to him the failure of their negotiations with the US and are using a standard tactic in an effort to pressure the US into meeting their requests. Merid is also under fire because of the poor performance of the Ethiopian Army against the Somali dissidents in the country's Ogaden region.]

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Ghana: The attempt on Nkrumah's life on 2 January is likely to unsettle the Ghanaian leader in much the same way as did the assassination attempt in 1962. Nkrumah's conviction that "imperialists" are out to get him will almost certainly be strengthened, and, at the least, there are likely to be frenzied new attacks on the US in Ghana's controlled press. The attack may also make Nkrumah more susceptible to pressure from pro-Communists for a purge of "unreliable" elements and for a "renovation" of the remnants of democracy inherited from British practice.

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Kashmir: Muslim demonstrations continue over the theft from a local mosque on 26 December of a hair which by popular belief belonged to the prophet Mohammed. Although there has not yet been any significant agitation between Muslims and Hindus in Kashmir, Pakistani propagandists are trying to exploit the affair. The Indian Government, while showing no particular alarm, is [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] ordering three army battalions to Srinagar city in anticipation of possibly more serious outbreaks there? [redacted] 25X1

Communist China: Peiping's tendency to rely on large doses of political indoctrination as a solution for its domestic problems was underscored by a New Year's Day statement that the regime intends to conduct a large-scale "socialist education" movement in 1964. A similar movement in 1963 failed to inspire much enthusiasm. The statement indicates that agriculture will continue to receive high priority and warns that "plain living and hard struggle" will be necessary. [redacted] 25X1

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